We claim:-

1. A multimetal oxide material of the formula I

$$[A]_p[B]_q[C]_r \qquad (I),$$

where

A is $Mo_{12}V_aX^1_bX^2_cX^3_dX^4_eX^5_fX^6_gO_x$,
B is $X^7_1Cu_hH_iO_y$,
C is $X^8_1Sb_jH_kO_z$,
X^1 is W, Nb, Ta, Cr and/or Ce,
X^2 is Cu, Ni, Co, Fe, Mn and/or Zn,
X^3 is Sb and/or Bi,
X^4 is Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs and/or H,
X^5 is Mg, Ca, Sr or Ba,
X^6 is Si, Al, Ti or Zr,
X^7 is Mo, W, V, Nb or Ta,
X^8 is Cu, Ni, Zn, Co, Fe, Cd, Mn, Mg, Ca, Sr or Ba,
a is from 1 to 8,
b is from 0.2 to 5,
c is from 0 to 23,
d is from 0 to 50,
e is from 0 to 2,
f is from 0 to 5,
g is from 0 to 50
h is from 0.3 to 2.5,
i is from 0 to 2,
j is from 0.1 to 50,
k is from 0 to 50,

x,y and z are numbers which are determined by the valency and frequency of the elements other than oxygen in (I) and

p,q and r are numbers other than zero, with the proviso that the ratio p/(q+r) is from 20:1 to 1:20, and the ratio q/r is from 20:1 to 1:20,

which contains the moiety $[A]_p$ in the form of three-dimensional regions A having the chemical composition

$$A \qquad Mo_{12}V_aX^1_bX^2_cX^3_dX^4_eX^5_fX^6_gO_x,$$

the moiety $[B]_q$ in the form of three-dimensional regions B having the chemical composition

B $X^7{}_1Cu_hH_iO_y$ and

the moiety $[C]_r$ in the form of three-dimensional regions C having the chemical composition

C $X^8{}_1Sb_jH_kO_z$

the regions A, B and C being distributed relative to one another in the same way as in a mixture comprising finely divided A, finely divided B and finely divided C.

2. A process for the preparation of a multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein a multimetal oxide material B

$$X^7{}_1Cu_hH_iO_y \quad (B)$$

as starting material 1 and a multimetal oxide material C

$$X^8{}_1Sb_jH_kO_z \quad (C)$$

as starting material 2 are preformed separately in finely divided form and the starting materials 1 and 2 are then brought into intimate contact with suitable sources of the elemental constituents of the multimetal oxide material A

$$Mo_{12}V_aX^1{}_bX^2{}_cX^3{}_dX^4{}_eX^5{}_fX^6{}_gO_x \quad (A)$$

in the desired ratio, and a resulting dry blend is calcined at from 250 to 500°C.

3. A process for the gas-phase catalytic oxidative preparation of acrylic acid from acrolein, wherein a multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 is used as the catalyst.

4. A process for the preparation of an oxometallate B of the formula

$$X^7{}_1Cu_hH_iO_y \ ,$$

where

X^7	is	Mo or W,
h	is	from 0.3 to 2.5,
i	is	from 0 to 2 and
y	is	a number which is determined by the valency and frequency of the elements other than oxygen in the formula,

wherein an aqueous ammoniacal solution of copper carbonate is added to an aqueous solution of ammonium heptamolybdate and ammonium paratungstate, and the resulting aqueous mixture is dried and the product is calcined at from 200 to 1000°C.

5. An oxometallate B, obtainable by a process as claimed in claim 4.